

REVISIÓN

[Translated article] Congenital and Hereditary Nail Disease

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KEYWORDS

Genetic skin disorders;  
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PALABRAS CLAVE

Trastornos genéticos de la piel;  
Displasia ungueal;  
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Congénito

**Abstract** Nail disorders in newborns can show independently or as components of systemic illnesses or genodermatoses. The examination of these abnormalities is complex and sometimes challenging. However, familiarity with these disorders can significantly contribute to uncovering potential underlying conditions.

This review includes the physiological nail changes seen within the first few months of life, such as Beau's lines, onychoschizia, koilonychia, congenital nail fold hypertrophy of the first digit, and onychocryptosis. This review also focuses on the most relevant congenital disorders reported and how to perform differential diagnosis. Finally, this review highlights those hereditary diseases in which nail involvement is crucial for diagnosis, such as nail-patella syndrome, congenital pachyonychia, or congenital dyskeratosis, among others.

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Enfermedad ungueal congénita y hereditaria

**Resumen** Las alteraciones ungueales en los recién nacidos pueden presentarse de forma aislada o formar parte de una enfermedad sistémica o una genodermatosis. Su estudio resulta complejo y en ocasiones supone un reto, sin embargo, el conocimiento de estas alteraciones puede resultar de gran utilidad a la hora de descubrir posibles dolencias ocultas.

Esta revisión incluye los cambios fisiológicos ungueales que aparecen en los primeros meses de vida: líneas de Beau, onicosquisis, coiloniquia, hipertrofia congénita de los pliegues ungueales del primer dedo y onicocriptosis. También se ocupa de las anomalías congénitas más relevantes y cómo realizar su diagnóstico diferencial. Por último, se destacan aquellas enfermedades

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hereditarias en las que la afectación ungueal es clave para hacer el diagnóstico, como el síndrome de uña-rótula, la paquioniquia congénita o la disqueratosis congénita, entre otras. © 2024 Publicado por Elsevier España, S.L.U. en nombre de AEDV. Este es un artículo Open Access bajo la licencia CC BY-NC-ND (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

## 33 Introduction

34 The nail apparatus consists of a series of structures that  
35 collectively have important functions, 3 of which are provid-  
36 ing protection for distal phalanges, nerve fibers, and soft  
37 tissues; being an organ of touch and grip; and having an  
38 aesthetic and cosmetic function.<sup>1</sup>

39 In the anatomical approach to the nail, from its proximal  
40 to distal part, we find the proximal nail fold, which contin-  
41 ues distally with the cuticle, which is firmly attached to the  
42 nail plate and protects the nail apparatus. Right underneath  
43 the proximal fold is the nail matrix, which is the germina-  
44 tive epithelium that gives rise to most of the nail plate. The  
45 matrix consists of a proximal part, which forms the dorsal  
46 portion of the plate, and a distal part, which produces the  
47 ventral portion of the nail. The distal matrix—also called  
48 the lunula—is the only visible part of the matrix, and is a  
49 whitish, opaque, crescent-shaped area located at the prox-  
50 imal end of the nail.<sup>1</sup> The nail bed contributes to adhesion  
51 and whether it forms the ventral portion of the nail plate is  
52 still to be elucidated. The nail bed consists of a thin epithe-  
53 lium with numerous glomic bodies and connective tissue it  
54 supports; this bed continues with the hyponychium, where  
55 the nail plate ceases to be intimately adhered to the nail  
56 bed, thus acquiring a more whitish color.<sup>1</sup> The nail plate is  
57 bounded by the proximal, distal, and lateral folds.

58 Nails are in a constant state of activity; within the first  
59 few months of life, they have a growth rate similar to that  
60 of young adults, but growth rate accelerates between 10  
61 and 15 years of age. At birth, newborns' nails are thin and  
62 soft, have a triangular morphology, and subsequently, with  
63 the child's development and growth, they become thicker  
64 and harder<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 1A).

65 We must distinguish between physiological changes in  
66 the nails and pathological variants, which can be catego-  
67 rized into congenital anomalies and hereditary nail diseases  
68 (Table 1). The correct approach to nail disease can be key to  
69 diagnosing systemic diseases that would otherwise go unnot-  
70iced.

## Physiological changes in newborns

### Beau's lines

71 Beau's lines result from a temporary cessation of nail growth  
72 at the proximal matrix.<sup>3-5</sup> They appear in 92% of newborns  
73 at 4 weeks of life and tend to disappear at around 14  
74 weeks. Clinically, they appear as single or multiple trans-  
75 verse grooves or moat-like depressions in the nail plate.  
76 Their thickness and depth of provide information on the  
77 duration and intensity of the causative process.<sup>2</sup>

78 They are believed to be due to the loss of fetal well-  
79 being or physiological changes during childbirth, reflecting  
80 the neonate's adaptability to the environment.<sup>4</sup> When this  
81 alteration appears only in 1 nail, it is often of traumatic  
82 origin. However, when it occurs in several nails, a systemic  
83 etiology such as prolonged fever or infectious conditions,  
84 especially hand-foot-and-mouth disease, needs to be ruled  
85 out, as Beau's lines appear in up to 24% of cases.<sup>3,6</sup>

### Onychoschizia

86 Onychoschizia is a transverse lamellar peeling at the distal  
87 free edge of the nail plate, mainly affecting the first fingers  
88 of the hands and feet. It appears in a third of newborns;  
89 onychoschizia may be favored by the fact that nails at this  
90 stage of life are very thin, repeated baths, or humidity.<sup>4,6</sup>  
91 When it occurs on the first finger of the hand, it is usually  
92 associated with sucking of such finger.<sup>7</sup>

### Koilonychia

93 Koilonychia or spoon nail is a variant of normality in 33% of  
94 newborns and improves spontaneously with age. It mainly  
95 affects the first toe.<sup>7</sup> It can be a clinical sign of trauma  
96 or diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus, nail-  
97 patella syndrome, psoriasis, lichen planus, or iron deficiency  
98 anemia, among others.<sup>4,6,8,9</sup> A systemic cause should be sus-  
99 pected.



100 **Figure 1** A) Nails of a newborn with triangular morphology, Beau's lines, and koilonychia. B) Koilonychia with everted nail edges  
101 and a central concavity. C) Hypertrophy of the lateral fold of the first toes of a neonate covering part of the nail plate.

**Table 1** Nail changes that can occur early in life.

Physiological changes	Congenital anomalies	Hereditary diseases
Beau's lines	Congenital misalignment of the first toenail	Nail-patella syndrome
Onychoschizia	Racket thumbs	Dyskeratosis congenita
Koilonychia	Iso-Kikuchi syndrome	Congenital pachyonychia
Congenital hypertrophy of the nail folds of the first toe	Congenital curved nails of the fourth toe	Epidermolysis bullosa
Onychocryptosis	Vertical implantation of the fifth toenail	Ectodermal dysplasias
	Congenital double nail of the fifth toe	Tuberous sclerosis
	Anonychia	Type I neurofibromatosis
	Leukonychia	
	Pincer nail	

pected when koilonychia affects both fingers and toes.<sup>7</sup>

Clinically, we can see loss of the normal curvature of the nail plate. The central part is depressed, and the lateral edges are everted, resulting in a concave transverse axis of the nail<sup>3,5,8</sup> (Fig. 1B).

### Congenital hypertrophy of the nail folds of the first toe

This condition appears at birth or within the first few days of life and usually resolves spontaneously within the first year. It is due to the asynchrony between the growth of the nail plate and periungual tissues.<sup>3,4,6,8</sup> It is characterized by hypertrophy of the periungual soft tissues—preferably the lateral folds although the distal folds are involved too—of the first toe.<sup>3,4,6,8</sup> It can occasionally partially or completely cover the nail plate (Fig. 1C). Possible complications include paronychia, misalignment of the nail plate, koilonychia, or onychocryptosis.<sup>4,6</sup> No therapy is necessary, only massaging the hypertrophied fold. Occasionally, treatment with topical corticosteroids or antibiotics is prescribed to control associated secondary inflammation or infection, sparing surgical management for cases that do not resolve within the first year of life.<sup>3,4,8</sup>

### Onychocryptosis

Onychocryptosis is the painful inflammation of the distal periungual skin due to nail embedding. This condition may appear around the 6<sup>th</sup> day of life in the fingernails due to the newborn's grasp reflex and tends to resolve spontaneously around the 4<sup>th</sup> month of life.<sup>6</sup> It can also affect the toenails, which in the newborn are short, thin, and poorly aligned in relation to the correctly directed toe. During infancy, the distal phalanx has not yet ossified, so the pressure to the nail plate can embed it in the underlying soft tissue.<sup>4</sup> This triggers an inflammatory reaction that can result in granulation tissue with exudate, bleeding, and infection, along with pain and hypertrophy of the nail fold.<sup>4,6,8</sup> In situations in which there is congenital misalignment of the nail of the first toe, onychocryptosis may persist and require surgical treatment for correction.<sup>4,5</sup>



**Figure 2** Bilateral congenital misalignment of the first toe with greater involvement on the left side. Dystrophic nail with lateralized growth, trapezoidal morphology, Beau's lines, onycholysis, and yellowish-brown coloration.

## Congenital nail anomalies

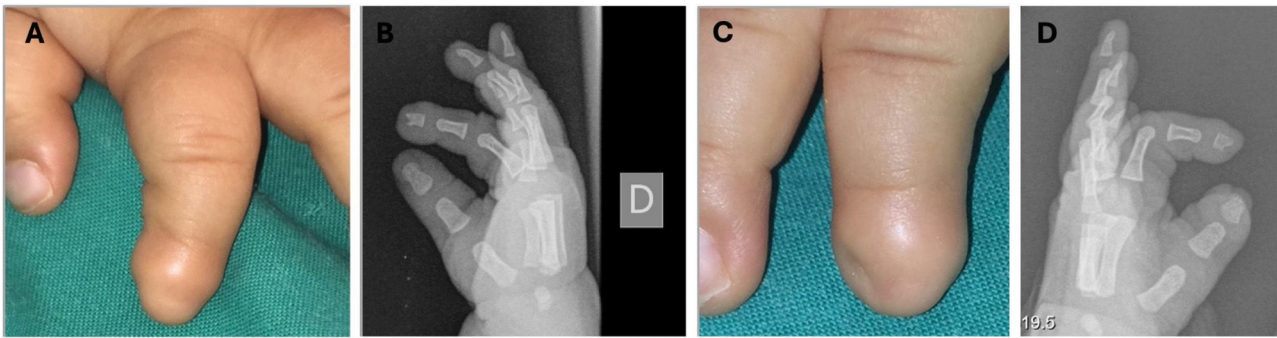
### Congenital misalignment of the first toe

This is a disease of unknown etiopathogenesis; some describe it as caused by an anomaly of the ligament connecting the nail matrix to the periosteum of the distal phalanx, while others relate it to excessive traction of the extensor tendon of the hallux, although genetic or embryological factors may also condition this entity.<sup>10,11</sup>

In this condition, the nail matrix is oriented laterally in relation to the longitudinal axis of the distal phalanx, submitting the nail being to constant trauma. Repetitive mechanical changes cause the appearance of Beau's lines, thickening, and discoloration of the nail plate, and morphological changes, becoming more triangular or trapezoidal (Fig. 2). Over time, the nail acquires an "oyster shell" appearance.<sup>3,11</sup> Sometimes it may begin late in adolescence and be associated with pronounced hallux valgus.<sup>12</sup>

It is usually an isolated, unilateral or bilateral condition, with a tendency for spontaneous improvement in up to half of the cases.<sup>3</sup> Treatment depends on the severity of the deviation: in mild forms, conservative measures such as "taping" are recommended, which involves the use of bandages that exert forces opposite to the deviation to correct it, or the use of appropriate footwear<sup>12</sup>; in more

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**Figure 3** Iso-Kikuchi Syndrome. A and C) Anonychia of the second finger of the right hand and minimal nail bud on the left hand. B and D) Simple X-ray showing a “Y” shaped notch at the level of the distal phalanx of both fingers.

164 severe cases, surgical intervention is recommended, prefer- 204  
165 ably within the first years of life.<sup>3</sup> 205

### 166 Racket thumbs

167 Racket thumbs are a predominantly female congenital mal- 207  
168 formation with an autosomal dominant inheritance.<sup>13</sup> It is 208  
169 generally an isolated finding, although it has been associated 209  
170 with the Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome and the trichorhinophal- 210  
171 langeal syndrome.<sup>10,13</sup> 211

172 Brachyonychia is described as nails in which the width 212  
173 of the nail plate and bed is greater than the length of the 213  
174 nail, contrary to normal conditions. It can occur in isola-  
175 tion or be associated with shortening of the distal phalanx  
176 and limited to the thumbs or affect more nails. Numerous  
177 syndromes and diseases have been associated with brachy-  
178 onychia. In racket thumbs, the first fingers of the hand are  
179 shortened and widened due to premature closure of the  
180 epiphysis, which interrupts the longitudinal growth of the  
181 terminal phalanx, while transverse growth goes on.<sup>6</sup>

### 182 Iso-Kikuchi syndrome

183 Congenital onychodysplasia of the index finger is a little- 223  
184 described benign entity. Although its etiopathogenesis is 224  
185 unknown, several theories describe mutations in the Wnt 225  
186 signaling pathway during embryogenesis, changes to the 226  
187 osteogenesis of the phalanx, intrauterine ischemia of arterio- 227  
188 les dependent on the radial artery, or the use of teratogenic 228  
189 drugs such as anticonvulsants.<sup>14</sup> 229

190 It is characterized by unilateral or bilateral dysplasia or 230  
191 anonychia of the index fingernail, and sometimes other nails 231  
192 of the hands and feet. It can be associated with underlying 232  
193 bone abnormalities; the most characteristic one is the distal 233  
194 narrowing of the last phalanx of the affected finger or the 234  
195 “Y” morphology of the distal phalanx<sup>15</sup> (Fig. 3). There is 235  
196 often no systemic involvement.<sup>14</sup> 236

197 The nail anomalies we can find are very varied: 237  
198 anonychia, micronychia of the ulnar side, polydactyly, 238  
199 hemionychogryphosis, and irregularity or abnormal align- 239  
200 ment of the nail plate.<sup>14</sup> Baran and Stroud have proposed 240  
201 a series of criteria for its diagnosis: 1) unilateral or bilateral 241  
202 hypoplasia/aplasia of the index finger and/or other fingers; 242  
203 2) radiological changes to the distal phalanx of the affected

finger, and 3) congenital, sporadic, or hereditary (autosomal 204  
dominant) disease.<sup>16</sup> 205

### 206 Congenital curved nail of the 4<sup>th</sup> toe

207 It is an autosomal recessive disorder, rarely published in the 208  
209 literature, mainly affecting Asian patients. It shows as a 210  
211 curved nail of the 4<sup>th</sup> toe from the dorsal to the plantar area, 212  
213 often bilateral, and is accompanied by visible bone disorders 214  
on a simple X-ray. Although it is often an isolated condi-  
tion, it can occasionally be associated with other congenital  
anomalies.<sup>3,11,17</sup>

### 214 Vertical implantation of the 5<sup>th</sup> toe nail

215 Although it is a rare disorder of unknown etiopathogenesis, 216  
217 a proximal nail fold disorder has been described acting as 218  
219 a guide for normal horizontal nail growth.<sup>18</sup> Other authors 220  
221 propose that it is due to the involvement of the underlying 222  
223 phalanx, lateral nail folds, and nail bed.<sup>18,19</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> toe 224  
225 nail grows in a vertical direction, predisposing it to trauma 226  
227 and, over time, favoring the appearance of aesthetic and 228  
229 functional issues.<sup>3,10,11</sup> 230

### 223 Congenital double nail of the 5<sup>th</sup> toe or accessory 224 nail of the 5<sup>th</sup> toe

225 It is a common but little-described disorder in the scien- 226  
227 tific medical literature, probably of an autosomal dominant 228  
229 inheritance with variable expression, although acquired 230  
231 cases have also been published due to trauma.<sup>20</sup> It presents 232  
233 as a wider than usual nail, with a longitudinal split that sep-  
arates it in 2; the part corresponding to the accessory nail is  
the smallest (Fig. 4). It is often bilateral and bone disorders  
in the distal phalanx are not a common finding.<sup>20-22</sup>

### 233 Anonychia or micronychia

234 Anonychia or micronychia is the partial or complete absence 235  
236 of one or more nails and can be congenital or acquired. The 237  
238 congenital form appears more frequently in isolation as a 239  
240 result of a mutation in the RSPO4 and FZD6 genes or as part 241  
242 of a syndrome, such as the nail-patella syndrome or the Iso-  
Kikuchi syndrome, among others.<sup>3,6,8,11,23</sup> 243



**Figure 4** Congenital double nail of the fifth toe. A wider nail with a longitudinal split separating the nail in 2 parts, the smaller part being the accessory nail.



**Figure 5** Fong disease or nail-patella syndrome. Nail hypoplasia of the first, second, fourth, and fifth fingers of both hands with typical triangular lunulae on the third fingers. Additionally, the nail plate of the second, fourth, and fifth fingers of both hands does not reach the free edge of the finger.

## Leukonychia

Leukonychia is the white discoloration of the nail. There are various classifications for this condition; depending on the time of onset, we speak of congenital or acquired leukonychia. The latter is the main cause of the nail plate color change in childhood. Other classifications of leukonychia are made depending on where the disorder occurs to differentiate among true leukonychia, apparent leukonychia, and pseudoleukonychia. When considering its morphology, we speak of punctate, transverse, longitudinal, total leukonychia, etc.<sup>24</sup>.

Congenital leukonychia can appear in isolation and affect all the nails of hands and feet or be syndrome-related. The most important of these is the Bart-Pumphrey syndrome of autosomal dominant inheritance due to a defect in connexin 26. It presents with leukonychia associated with palmo-plantar keratoderma and sensorineural hearing loss and, occasionally, koilonychia. Another case has been reported of a family affected by total leukonychia along with pilose dysplasia and acanthosis nigricans-like lesions due to a defect in chromosome 12.<sup>24</sup>

## Pincer nails

Pincer nails are characterized by an acquired or congenital increased curvature of the transverse axis of the nail plate. In hereditary cases, there is usually an autosomal dominant inheritance, and nails are symmetrically affected, predominantly the first toes. The acquired form is more common; nail involvement is usually asymmetrical and is related to trauma, systemic diseases, and drugs, among others.<sup>24,25</sup>

The pincer nail is a nail morphological disorder, generally of the toes, manifested by narrowing of the nail width and excessive transverse curvature, much more prominent from the mid to the distal area.<sup>24,25</sup>

## Hereditary diseases

### Fong disease or the nail-patella syndrome

It is a rare autosomal dominant disease caused by mutations in the LMX1B gene, located on the long arm of chromo-

some 9, which encodes the 1-beta factor and regulates the expression of type IV collagen.<sup>6,26</sup> The characteristic clinical tetrad includes nail disorders (95% up to 98%), absence or hypoplasia of the patella (90% up to 95%), elbow dysplasia (90%), and iliac horns (70% up to 80%) which are pathognomonic. Additionally, open-angle glaucoma can be found in 30% of patients.<sup>26</sup> Nail changes go from aplasia, hypoplasia, and nail dysplasia with longitudinal grooves, to roughness of the nail plate and hypoplasia of the distal part of the nail plate (Fig. 5). Although the triangular lunula is typical of this entity, it has also been observed in trisomy 21 and post-trauma.<sup>6</sup> Less frequently, the absence of skin folds on the dorsal part of the distal interphalangeal joint has been reported.<sup>6</sup>

Prognosis is determined by renal involvement (12% up to 62%), and it presents with proteinuria, glomerulonephritis of varying severity, and even with end-stage renal disease in 10% of patients. Early diagnosis is essential to avoid possible complications. In this regard, nail disorders play an essential role, as they are visible from birth.<sup>6,26,27</sup>

## Dyskeratosis congenita

Dyskeratosis congenita is a rare hereditary disorder of different inheritance patterns, in which a telomerase disorder leads to the premature shortening of telomeres.<sup>2-4</sup>

The classic clinical triad is characterized by the presence of nail dystrophy, leukokeratosis of the oral mucosa, and abnormal reticulated skin pigmentation.<sup>3</sup> Nail changes are the first sign of the condition and usually appear before the first year of life. Fingernails are more affected than toenails, presenting with very lichen-like features with longitudinal grooves and ridges, pterygium, and, in some cases, onychia.<sup>3,4</sup> It can be accompanied by systemic involvement, such as pulmonary disorders, GI disorders, and neoplasms, among others, and in 50% up to 90% of cases of bone marrow failure, which is the main cause of death.<sup>3,4,6,8</sup>

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**Table 2** Classification of congenital pachyonychia.

Pachyonychia classification	Mutated gene	Congenital involvement	Differential clinical features
PC-K6a (44%)	KRT6A	Yes, nail dystrophy of all nails	Painful plantar keratoderma Nail dystrophy in both toenails and fingernails Oral leukokeratosis Cysts Follicular hyperkeratosis Hoarseness
PC-K6b (5%)	KRT6B	Not present, onset before 15 years of age Milder form of CP	Painful plantar keratoderma Predominant nail dystrophy in toenails Cysts
PC-K6c (2%)	KRT6C	Milder form of CP	Focal palmoplantar keratoderma Isolated nail dystrophy in toenails
PC-K16 (25%)	KRT16	Not present, appears before 14 years of age	Painful plantar keratoderma Predominant nail dystrophy in toenails
PC-K17 (24%)	KRT17	Yes, natal teeth	Nail dystrophy in both toenails and fingernails Natal teeth Cysts (steatocystomas)

CP, congenital pachyonychia.

### Congenital pachyonychia

It is a rare genodermatosis characterized by keratinization defects affecting the nails, skin, and mucous membranes. Generally, it follows an autosomal dominant inheritance, although a few cases of autosomal recessive inheritance and acquired cases have been reported.<sup>6</sup> In congenital pachyonychia (CP), mutations have been described in the genes associated with keratin. Currently, the classification of CP is based on these 5 mutated genes: PC-K6a, PC-K6b, PC-K6c, PC-K16, and PC-K17<sup>28–30</sup> (Table 2). The classical classification divided mutations into 2 phenotype-based subtypes: CP-1 or the Jadassohn-Lewandowsky syndrome—the most common—caused by mutations in the KRT6A and KRT16 keratin genes; and CP-2 or the Jackson-Lawler syndrome, due to mutations in the KRT6B and KRT17 genes.<sup>3,6,30</sup>

Clinical presentation is characterized by the triad of nail dystrophy, palmoplantar keratoderma, and plantar pain.<sup>2,4</sup> Nail changes are the earliest signs and are usually present in most cases before the first year of life.<sup>4,11</sup> Thickening of the nail plate—predominantly at the distal end—has been reported, along with hyperkeratosis of the nail bed of most nails, although in some patients the toenails are more affected, possibly due to the higher incidence of trauma.<sup>6,8,29</sup> The nail thickens and lateral edges curve like a pincer nail. In the early stages, it shows a “V” shape and progressively it acquires a hook-like appearance, with yellow and brown discoloration<sup>3</sup> (Fig. 6). At skin level, palmoplantar keratoderma is another early sign of the disease; it is often painful, disabling, and tends to form deep blisters due to friction and pressure, especially when it affects the sole of the foot.<sup>2,4,29,30</sup>

Depending on the type of CP we’re dealing with, other clinical findings can be observed such as follicular hyperkeratosis, leukokeratosis, dental disorders, or pilosebaceous cysts.<sup>4,6,8,29</sup>



**Figure 6** Congenital pachyonychia in a mother and her child. The toenails show a significant increase in the thickness of the nail plate and nail bed taking on the shape of a hook, along with a white-yellow coloration. Plantar keratoderma can also be seen on the inner edge of the first toe of the left foot. In the fingernails, pachyonychia can also be seen, along with a yellowish-brown coloration.

Treatment is aimed at controlling the pain of plantar keratoderma and nail dystrophy. Systemic retinoids and urea preparations can be useful, while chemical or surgical ablation of the nails is spared for cases that are unresponsive to more conservative therapies.<sup>3,8,28,30</sup> Currently, other therapeutic options are being evaluated to improve these patients’ quality of life.<sup>30</sup>

### Congenital epidermolysis bullosa

Congenital epidermolysis bullosa is an inherited skin disease characterized by blister formation. It is categorized

into 4 types: simple, junctional, dystrophic, and Kindler syndrome.<sup>11,31</sup> Nail involvement is very common but is not specific to any type of epidermolysis bullosa, as it results from matrix and nail bed involvement due to blister formation.<sup>3,6,8,11</sup> The most common nail disorders are hemorrhagic paronychia, granulation tissue and scarring of the nail bed, pachyonychia, nail atrophy, parrot beak deformity, etc.<sup>6,11</sup> In advanced stages of the disease and in severe forms of congenital epidermolysis bullosa, anonychia may occur.<sup>3,6,8,11</sup>

### Ectodermal dysplasias

These are a heterogeneous group of congenital disorders including about 200 different entities. They are characterized by the abnormal development of ectodermal structures, including the skin, hair, nails, teeth, and sweat glands.<sup>4,6</sup> Nail disorders vary depending on the syndrome and are not specific.<sup>3,6</sup> The most common phenotype of ectodermal dysplasia is type I or the Christ-Siemens-Touraine syndrome, caused by mutations in the X-linked EDA gene. Clinically, it is characterized by hypo or anhidrosis, koilonychia, hypotrichosis, and hypodontia with conical teeth.<sup>13</sup>

### Tuberous sclerosis

Tuberous sclerosis is a rare genetic disorder of autosomal dominant inheritance due to mutations in tumor suppressor genes. Loss of functionality of these genes promotes tumor formation in several bodily parts. The major criteria for diagnosis include nail fibromas, known as Koenen's tumors, which appear more frequently in girls during puberty, particularly on the toes.<sup>32</sup> They present as single or multiple—usually asymptomatic—reddish or skin-colored papules located on the periungual skin of the proximal nail fold and less frequently at subungual level.<sup>32,33</sup> At times they can compress the nail matrix and create a longitudinal groove in the nail plate, even in the absence of a visible lesion.<sup>33</sup> Other nail findings include splinter hemorrhages, capillary dilatation in the nail bed with a characteristic "red comet" morphology, and longitudinal leukonychia.<sup>33,34</sup> This entity should be suspected in the presence of more than 1 fibroma in children.<sup>33</sup>

### Type I neurofibromatosis

Type I neurofibromatosis is a rare genodermatosis of autosomal dominant inheritance and an estimated incidence of 1:2,500-3,000 live births. Half of the cases are due to a spontaneous mutation in the NF1 gene while the other half are inherited.<sup>35</sup> It is characterized by the appearance of café-au-lait spots, axillary or inguinal freckling, and especially neurofibromas. The latter are benign tumors derived from the sheath of a peripheral nerve and can appear anywhere on the body, including the periungual fold.<sup>5,35,36</sup> The presence of glomus tumors in this disease is less well-known; they present as bluish-red macules or as a band of longitudinal erythronychia in the nail bed and are accompanied by a characteristic pain to pressure or temperature changes.<sup>36</sup>

### Conclusions

Physiological nail disorders in newborns are relatively common and need to be recognized to distinguish them from other pathological conditions. Most of these physiological changes in the nails described within the first few months of life result from the intrinsic fragility of the nail at birth and resolve spontaneously with growth. Attention should be paid to unusual nail disorders whether they appear in the early years of life, childhood, or adolescence, as they may be the early signs of a more complex syndrome often accompanied by other skin and organ abnormalities.

### Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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